

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11, 12, and 14-19 are in this application and are presented for consideration. Claims 2, 46, 9, 11, 12, and 14 have been amended, and new claims 15-19 have been added.

The specification, drawings and claims have been amended to address the Examiner's objections, incorporate the Examiner's suggestions and to place the application in better form. The claims have also been amended in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, and to further highlight and more clearly point out the important features of the invention. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful reading of this application, for pointing out discrepancies, for providing suggestions, and indicating allowable subject matter.

With this Amendment new independent claim 15 has been added which includes the features of claims 1 and 3. The Office Action indicates that such a combination of features defines over the prior art. It is Applicant's position that new claim 15 and its dependent claims, should now also be in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 16 has been added, and includes, inter alia, the features of claims 1 and 2. Claim 2 has been rejected as being anticipated by Ko '244.

New independent claim 16 sets forth a plurality of ribs where each of the ribs includes a structural component. In the embodiment of the drawings, the structural component is represented by reference 32. The specification has also been amended to indicate that element 32 is a structural component. Claim 16 also sets forth that a plurality of sawtooth components are connected to each structural component. In the embodiment of the drawings, the sawtooth

components are indicated by reference 34, and as one can see from figure 2, there are a plurality of sawtooth components 34 connected to a structural component 32. Applicant has reviewed Ko, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of a plurality of sawtooth components on a single structural component.

The rejection appears to equate elements 3 and 6 of Ko with the ribs of the present application. The rejection then further appears to equate elements 6 and 35 of Ko with a sawtooth component. Applicant has reviewed Ko, and notes that elements 6 and 35 appear to be quite separate components. Element 6 is indicated as being a second rib, and element 35 is indicated as being an end of a main rib 3. It is applicant's position that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not consider elements 6 and 35 to be a sawtooth component. These elements are spaced apart from each other and therefore do not appear to form one cohesive structure. Furthermore, the shape of these two elements does not give the appearance of a sawtooth, but instead appears to only give the shape of a line and a point. Still furthermore, any one rib in Ko does not appear to have a plurality of elements 6, 35. Therefore elements 6 and 35 do not anticipate the plurality of sawtooth components on a single rib as set forth in new independent claim 16.

Claim 16 also sets forth that each structural component defines a longitudinal channel and a longitudinal slot. The rejection equates element 3 with the structural component of the present invention. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Ko of element 3 defining a channel or a slot. Therefore element 3 can anticipate all the features of the structural component of new claim 16.

Claim 16 further sets forth that each sawtooth component has an appendage. In the embodiment of the drawings, the appendage is represented by reference 34G, as especially shown in figure 5. This appendage is set forth as being shaped, along with the shape of the channel and slot, to have the appendage slide through the slot and the channel. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion of a sawtooth component in Ko that has all of these features. As described previously, the rejection equates elements 6 and 35 of Ko with the sawtooth component of the present invention. However these elements of Ko do not have all the features of the appendage of claim 16. Claim 16 therefore further defines over Ko.

Claim 16 also sets forth a plurality of cover strips, where each cover strip is mounted on one of these sawtooth components of each of the plurality of ribs. Present figure 2 shows a single rib with four sawtooth components 34. In practice, there would be other ribs, and a single cover strip 18 would be mounted on the bottommost sawtooth component of each rib. Likewise another cover strip 18 would be mounted on the second bottommost sawtooth component of each rib.

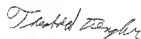
New claims 17 - 19 have many of the features of original claims 3, 5 and 6. These claims have been indicated as having allowable subject matter, and it is applicant's position that new claims 17 - 19 have the same allowable subject matter, and therefore these claims should also be allowable.

Applicant again thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's representative by telephone to discuss

possible changes.

At this time applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and based on the above amendments and remarks, respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,



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Attached: Abstract
(1) Sheet of Replacement Drawings

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